



Frequently Asked Voting Questions

Do I have to show photo identification before I can vote?

U No. You do not need a photo ID to vote. Bringing photo identification is the quickest and easiest way to vote and encouraged because this election is likely to be very busy. But, every voter has the option of voting by simply signing an affidavit if they don't have ID with them. **Ultimately, it is your choice whether to sign an affidavit or bring photo ID.**

U First time Michigan voters should be prepared to show photo ID or other documents proving address. If you have a question contact your local clerk.

What if my name does not appear on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

U Do not give up! If you registered by October 6th, you can still vote!

U If you have your registration receipt, just show it and you can vote.

U If you don't have a receipt – ask the election worker to help you make sure you are in the correct precinct.

U If you're in the wrong place – go to the right one. Your vote will not be counted if you cast it in the wrong precinct.

U Only if you are positive you are in the correct precinct, ask for a provisional ballot. You will be asked to fill out a new application and answer some questions about where you live and when you registered. If your answers establish that you should be on the list, you will be able to vote.

U Provisional ballots may go into the scanner and be counted immediately or they may go into a sealed envelope for the clerk to review later. If your ballot is placed in an envelope you will be given instructions on how to follow up to be sure your vote is counted.



Myths and Facts about Voting

MYTH

FACT

If you are currently in jail awaiting a plea or trial, you are not allowed to vote.	In the state of Michigan, if you are in jail awaiting arraignment, plea or trial, you are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot.
If you have served time in jail or prison in the state of Michigan, you forfeit all voting rights.	Michigan allows an individual to vote even if they have been convicted in state or federal court, unless the person is currently incarcerated.
Only English - speaking citizens are qualified to vote.	The Voting Rights Act requires particular polling locations to print ballots and other election materials in languages other than English, and have oral translation help available at polls, where the need exists.
You must finish high school to be eligible to vote in Michigan.	You are eligible to vote if you are: U At least 18 years of age U Not presently incarcerated U A Michigan resident/ citizen of the United States U Registered to vote
I need to show my voter registration card in order to vote.	As long as you are registered, you can either show a photo identification or sign an affidavit in order to vote.
If you are a person with a disability, you may not have someone else read the ballot and record your vote for you.	Michigan law entitles persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodations to enable them to vote, which may include having someone read the ballot. You cannot be denied access to a polling place because of a disability.



Pay Close Attention When You Hear This...

"I can't let you vote because your name does not appear on our lists."

"We are out of affidavits, so unless you have valid ID you cannot vote today."

"I'm sorry, the voting office is closed for a break."

"Do you have a criminal record or any outstanding warrants?"

"Is your home currently in foreclosure?"

"You are not able to redo your ballot if you make a mistake."

"Are you currently in bankruptcy, owe child support or have any outstanding debts that might have been referred to a collection agency?"

"I'm sorry, we don't have the equipment to accommodate your disability, I'm afraid you cannot vote today."

"One of our officials will have to accompany you into the voting booth."

"The voting equipment is down right now, maybe you should come back later."

"Who will you be voting for today?"

If you hear any of these statements or are not allowed to vote, consult the organizations on the back of this brochure!



About the Michigan Department of Civil Rights

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) was established in 1965 to secure the full enjoyment of civil rights guaranteed by law and the State Constitution through the elimination of unlawful discrimination.

MDCR has both jurisdiction and interest in preserving the right of all citizens to participate equally in the voting process regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or disability.



For Immediate Assistance On Election Day

- U** **FIRST:** contact your city, township or county clerk's office and ask them to help you resolve the problem. If you do not know how to contact your clerk, visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> or call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 and ask for the phone number to your city, township or county clerk's office.
- U** **SECOND:** contact the Election Protection Coalition at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or www.866ourvote.org and request assistance with resolving your issue.
- U** **THIRD:** contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973. If your local clerk's office is unwilling or unable to resolve the issue, call the Michigan Bureau of Elections and ask them to help you resolve the problem.



To File A Complaint After The Election

- U** Contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1-800-482-3604, or visit the website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>
- U** Contact the U.S. Dept. of Justice - Voting Section at 1-800-253-3931, or visit the website <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting>
- U** Contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>



Options For Voting

If you are registered to vote, you may do so by:

- 1) Voting at the correct precinct in person on Election Day.
- 2) Voting in person by absentee ballot at your local clerk's office between now and Election Day if you will not be present in the precinct on Election Day (or if you meet another requirement for absentee voting). Contact your local clerk for more information.
- 3) If you have voted in Michigan before or if you registered to vote in person, you have until 2:00PM on November 1st to request that your local clerk mail you an absentee ballot, but the clerk must receive the completed ballot by Election Day.
- 4) If you are a first time Michigan voter, it may be possible to appear at another clerk or secretary of state office in person to establish your identity and address, and then ask your clerk to mail you an absentee ballot. Consider this option only if there is sufficient time for you to receive the ballot and get it back to the clerk by Election Day. Contact your local clerk if you need to consider this option.

Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Linda V. Parker, Director



Michigan Department of Civil Rights

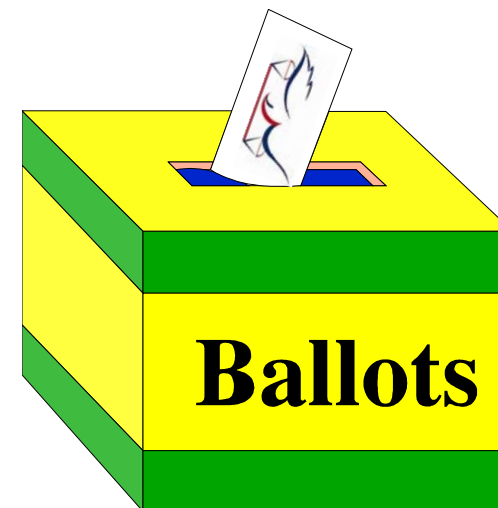
For more information:
1-800-482-3604
<http://www.mi.gov/mdcr>
TTY: (877) 878-8464

Michigan Department of Civil Rights



VOTING

*What you should know
for 2008*



**All qualified voters present in line at 8:00PM
must be permitted to vote.**

- *If you moved to a new city or township, you must re-register to vote.*
- *If you moved within a city or township, you must update your address.*